

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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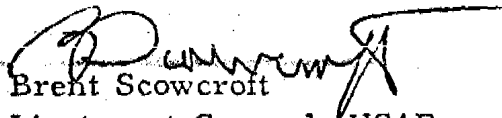
August 7, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

John A. Wickham, Jr.
Major General, U.S. Army
Military Assistant to the Secretary
Department of Defense

SUBJECT: Significant Military Exercise HALCON VISTA X

The significant military exercise HALCON VISTA X is approved.



Brent Scowcroft
Lieutenant General, USAF
Deputy Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

OSD REVIEWED 22-Mar-2011: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

5248

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-78-6-6-3

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

August 1, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM:

STEPHEN LOW *sl*

SUBJECT:

Significant military exercise HALCON VISTA X

Attached for your signature is a memorandum to General Wickham, approving significant military exercise HALCON VISTA X. This is a joint U.S./Venezuela coastal surveillance and intercept exercise to which I have no objection.

CONFIDENTIAL

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-78-6-6-3



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

31 JUL 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Significant Military Exercise HALCON VISTA X

Three copies of a brief on the significant military exercise HALCON VISTA X are forwarded for approval in accordance with NSAM 316. This exercise has been coordinated with the State Department and the U.S. Information Agency. They have raised no objections.

The recommended general public information policy is set forth in paragraph 14 of the exercise brief.

Please note that the critical date for Presidential cancellation is 7 August.

(w)

JOHN A. WICKHAM, JR.
MAJOR GENERAL, USA
MILITARY ASSISTANT

Enclosure
a/s

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WHEN WITH ATTACHMENTS



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US SOUTHERN COMMAND

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BRIEF OF A SIGNIFICANT MILITARY EXERCISE

1. (U) Name of Exercise. HALCON VISTA X (Venezuela).
2. (U) Type. JCS-coordinated, combined surveillance/intercept exercise.
3. (C) Aims. To evaluate and improve Venezuelan surveillance/intercept plans, procedures, and capabilities; to exercise combined forces in coordinated tracking and intercept of simulated subversive air and surface units attempting incursions into Venezuela's Caribbean coastal areas; to promote regional cooperation; and to improve cooperation and understanding between US and Venezuelan Armed Forces.
4. (U) Dates. 1-5 September 1975 (tentative).
5. (U) Critical Date for Presidential Decision to Cancel Exercise. 7 August 1975.
6. (C) Political Implications.
 - a. US commitments to allies for conduct of exercise. Tentative agreements: travel, per diem, POL, and three USNR P2 aircraft as assigned by COMNAVAIRRESFOR. These aircraft will be based and operated from Venezuela.
 - b. Date commitments made. No firm commitments have been made. All arrangements are tentative.
 - c. Other political implications. Due to sensitive relations between Colombia and Venezuela, similar but separate exercises have been conducted with Colombia in the past.
7. (U) Geographical Area. Caribbean Sea and contiguous Venezuelan coastal areas, excluding areas near the Venezuelan/Colombian border.

DECLASSIFIED
As per instructions on document
By RV Date 3/24

Classified by USCINCSO
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED ON DECEMBER 31, 1981

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8. (U) Political-Military Scenario Summary. Scenario contains no political assumptions or connotations.

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9. (C) Directing Headquarters.

a. COMUSNAVSO is USSOUTHCOM's coordinating authority for US support to and participation in the exercise.

b. The Venezuelans will exercise overall control of their assigned forces. Details pertaining to location of headquarters of military forces, control group, and infiltration forces are yet to be determined. Assigned USNR P2 aircraft will "operate as requested" by the counterinsurgency forces. These aircraft will be based in Venezuela and will remain at all times at least 20 kilometers from Venezuelan/Colombian border.

10. (U) Participating Commands, Headquarters, and Forces.

a. United States. Three US Naval Reserve (USNR) P2 patrol aircraft with necessary air and ground crews are the US Forces directly participating in the exercise. It is expected that two officers from USSOUTHCOM will participate as observers.

b. Allied. To this date, Venezuela has not designated forces to participate in the exercise. Based on past experience, it is expected that a minimum of two destroyers, various small craft, an infiltration ship, several military and civilian aircraft, and two army battalions will participate.

11. (U) Scope of Anticipated Participation.

a. Other unified or specified commands. None.

b. Unassigned forces of the US Military Services. Patrol aircraft from NAVAIRESFOR, as arranged through CINCLANT, will participate in surveillance operations.

c. Other Federal agencies or departments. None.

d. Allied nations. Venezuela will, on several occasions, simulate infiltration of insurgent forces on the Caribbean coast of Venezuela by air and sea. These infiltrated forces will try to join exercise guerrilla forces already in-country. Friendly forces will conduct air/surface surveillance operations to track and intercept infiltration forces at sea; or, failing that, intercept them during landing or after ashore.

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12. (U) Simulated Use of Nuclear Weapons. None.
13. (U) Coordination Effected with Other Unified, Specified, or Service Commands, Governmental Departments, Agencies, or Representatives Thereof. All pertinent exercise matters have been coordinated with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and LANTCOM. Concurrence of the US Ambassador to Venezuela will be requested by USCINCSO after firm dates for the exercise are announced.
14. (C) Recommended General Public Information Policy.
- a. Within the United States: No publicity. Release information only in reply to queries from news media. Replies to read generally: "As part of the previously scheduled Military Assistance Training Program, the United States is providing limited support for a routine surveillance/intercept training exercise being conducted in the Caribbean by Venezuela. Similar exercises have been conducted in the past several years."
 - b. Outside the United States: Release of information to the Latin American news media and other areas outside the United States will be made by the Exercise Joint Staff Public Affairs Office of Venezuela. Inquires received by US participants or advisory personnel from news media representatives will be referred to the same public affairs office for response.
15. (C) General Policy Concerning:
- a. Diplomatic information: Any US news release with diplomatic implications will be coordinated with the US embassy in the country concerned.
 - b. Psychological elements: None.
16. (C) Additional Remarks.
- a. Any significant deviations from the above plans will be reported as they occur.
 - b. Assessment of what perception of US and Allied strategy and military capability the exercise will portray: None.

Prepared by:

LTC E. M. ANDERSON, USAF
 LANT/SOUTH/AL-REDCOM Division, J-3
 Extension 73860

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